

Services recognized for satisfying Wolf Pack needs

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8th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

It's no secret many people take a lot for granted in their daily lives, yet some of the things we seldom think about are at the core of our most basic needs such as water, food, shelter and social acceptance. Satisfying needs for all Wolf Pack warriors, TDY personnel and follow-on forces is the business of the 8th Services Squadron.

Many of us sometimes fail to appreciate the folks in services until our most basic needs aren't being satisfied. Thank goodness we have awards programs in the Air Force to give units like services the attention and credit they deserve.

According to Maj. Bobby Suell, 8th SVS commander, squadrons are asked each January to submit a write up of their major achievements during the previous calendar year. Pacific Air Forces provides the guidance and the format to use before the units can submit their award packages. All packages are judged by content and accuracy. If selected to represent PACAF, a unit receives a trophy and their package is then forwarded to Headquarters Air Force for that level of competition.

The PACAF trophy did find its way to Kunsan this time. The 8th Services Squadron won the HQ PACAF Outstanding Services Unit, Small Category Award for 2001. The period covered was Jan. 1 through Dec. 31, 2000. Col. Burt Field, 8th Fighter Wing commander presented the trophy Aug. 9 at the wing stand-up meeting.

"We were also PACAF's nominee for the Air Force's prestigious Major General Eugene L. Eubank Morale, Welfare and Recreation Award for 2001," said Senior Master Sgt. Michael Brown, 8th SVS superintendent.

The Eubank MWR award is presented to the best services squadron with 5,000 or less military and civilian personnel assigned. This award, along with the trophy, is sponsored by the Order of



Photo by Airman 1st Class Brian Hill

The Falcon Community Center was recognized as Best in PACAF and Best in the Air Force for 2001.

Daedalians, a nonprofit organization that focuses on educational and scientific activities. It's presented annually to the Air Force organization adjudged by HQ Air Force to have the best overall small base MWR program in the Air Force for the preceding year. It was first awarded in 1990.

In 1999, 8th SVS took first place at the Air Force level by winning the Eubank MWR award. How did services personnel accomplish this?

"We championed quality of life — no doubt about it. I don't think there is

anybody in the Air Force that has done it better than we have in the past year," said Brown.

The many base programs and entertainment the 8th SVS has to offer contributes to the quality of life for the base airmen.

"This last award period, we had more than 350,000 entertainment events and giveaways. We also won the Best Community Center in PACAF Award and then we competed Air Force wide with the other commands and won the Best Community Center in the Air Force Award," said Master Sgt. Pat John, 8th SVS community support flight chief.

Brown points out that many of the programs that helped them win the community center award were not included in the package sent forth to compete for the outstanding services award.

He admits they may have helped, but they had many other programs not previously recognized that were used for this award's submission.

Bringing a lot of entertainment to Kunsan is one example of a program that may have helped the unit significantly in winning the award.

"Well known bands came from the U.S. to perform for the troops," said Capt. Roberto Quiroz, 8th SVS combat support flight commander.

"Now we get at least one band a month, we have actually tripled the number of big-name bands [appearing

here] from prior years," said Tech. Sgt. Mary Mayer, 8th SVS director of community center. Mayer, who is about to wrap up her Korean tour in a few weeks, was involved in most of the events and programs that helped her organization win the award.

The unit's performance during the Foal Eagle Exercise held here in October and November 2000 contributed significantly to the 8th SVS winning the PACAF award.

"We housed follow-on forces here. We had a camp of about 900 people with approximately 100 personnel brought here to play opposing forces. It was a joint-service exercise comprised of Air Force, Army, Marines and Navy participants," said Brown.

Services personnel had to increase their capacity in order to support all the extra people. With the 8th Civil Engineer Squadron's help, they erected several tents to provide such services as extra dining facilities, showers, TV rooms, game rooms, and DSN lines for morale calls. They even put up a tent right next to O'Malley's Dining Facility to accommodate the extra troops.

"It was the first time we (8th SVS) practiced to extend our feeding capabilities," said Brown.

So when all the dust settled, 8th Services Squadron personnel didn't go unnoticed or unappreciated for all their hard work above and beyond.

"They really stood out as cream of the crop," concludes Quiroz.



Photo by Master Sgt. Michael Casados

Tech. Sgt. Mary Mayer, 8th Services Squadron Falcon Community Center director, proudly displays the award for Headquarters PACAF Outstanding Services Unit, Small Category Award for 2001.